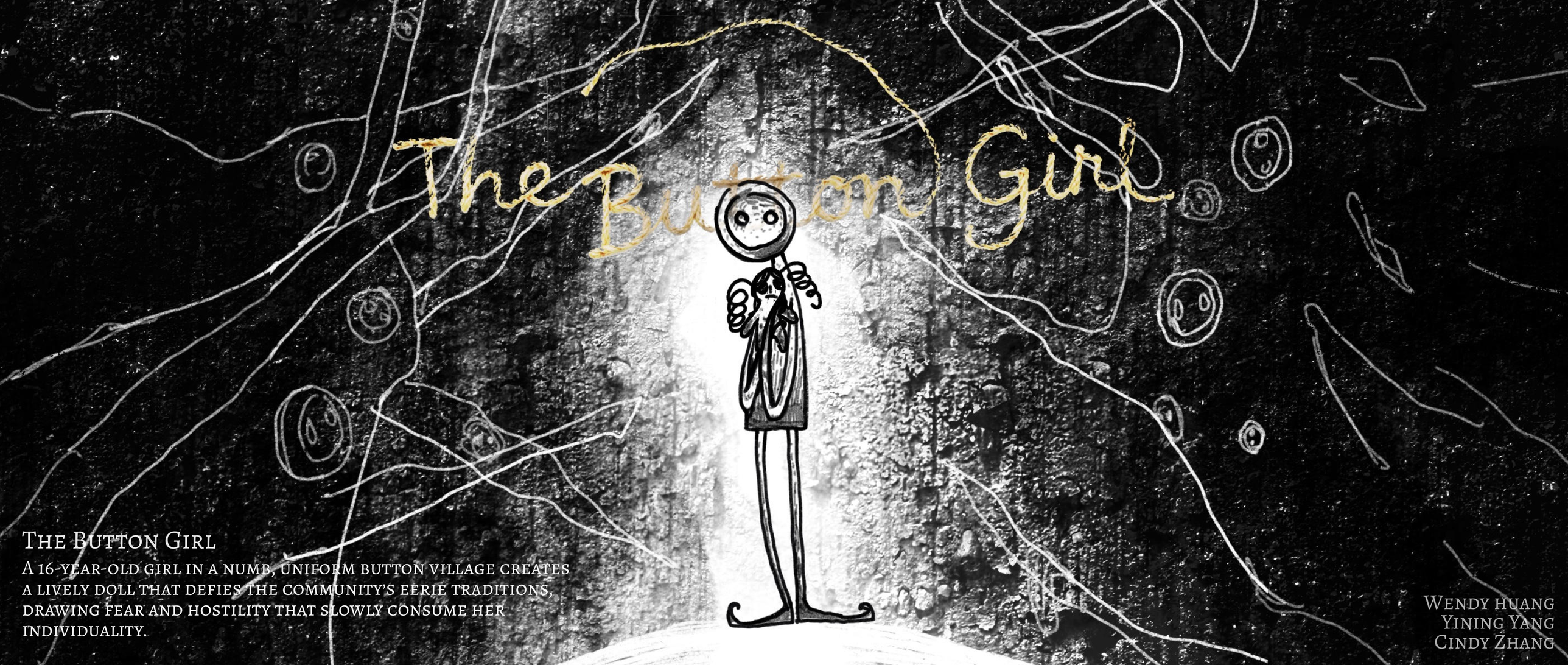


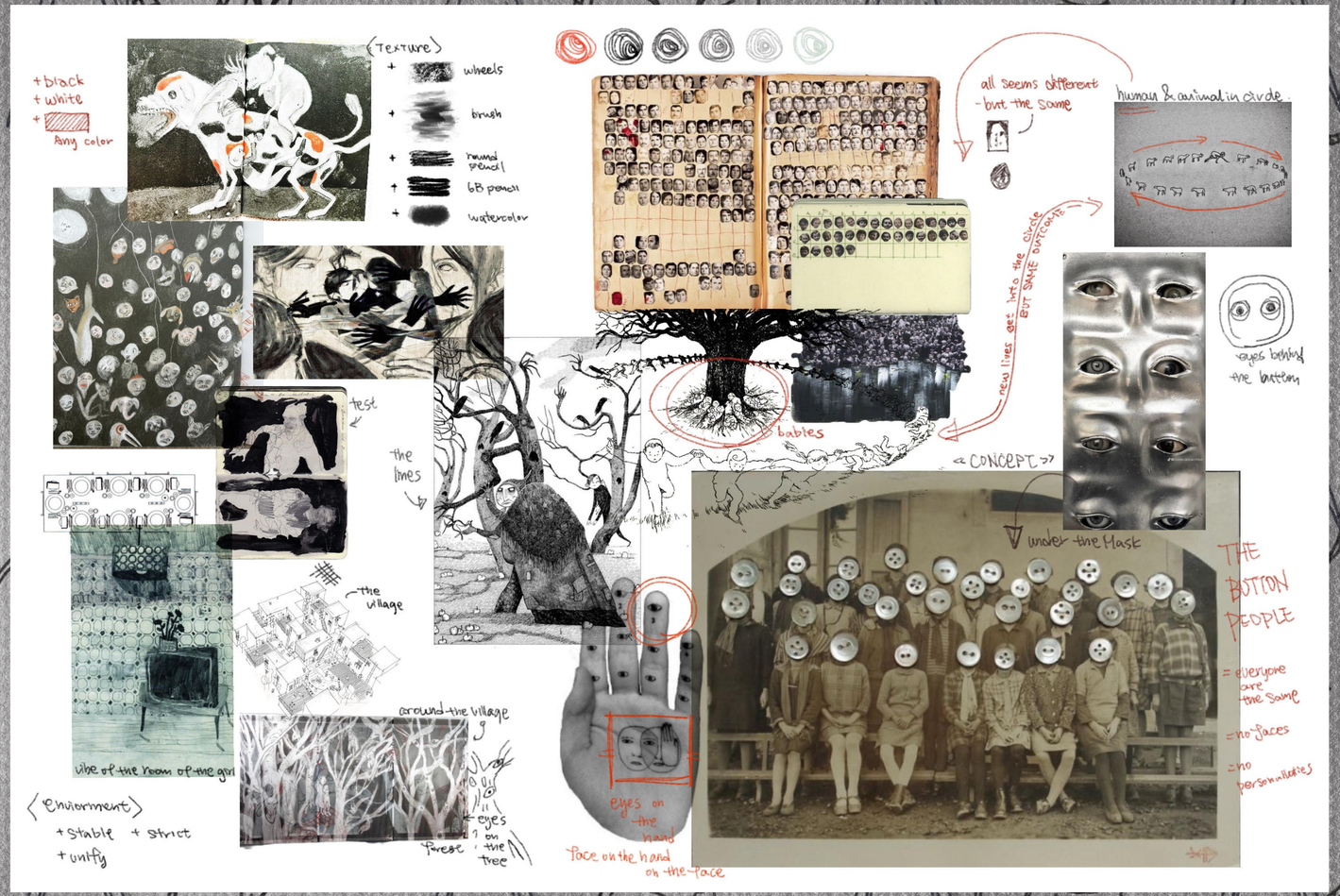
The Button Girl

A 16-year-old girl in a numb, uniform button village creates a lively doll that defies the community's eerie traditions, drawing fear and hostility that slowly consume her individuality.

Wendy Huang
Yining Yang
Cindy Zhang

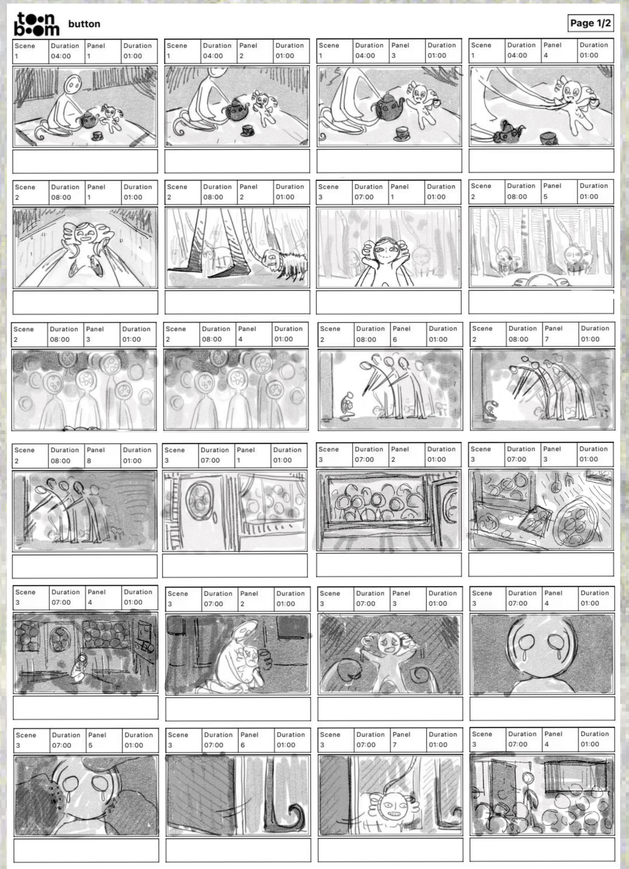
What happens when a **smile** becomes **rebellion?**

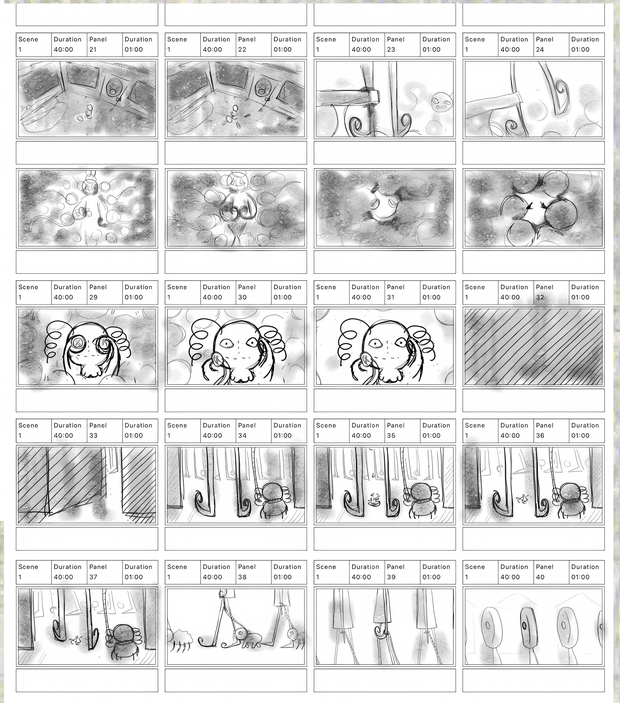
The 16-year-old button girl came from a highly numb and uniform village where everyone was the same. In this village, everyone had to make a "companion doll" as a symbol of entering a new stage of life. Everyone's doll had the face of a wide-eyed baby, the body of an animal, and strange feet, all tied with ropes. However, the girl's doll could have its own emotions after being fitted with button eyes. When the villagers discovered the abnormality of the girl's doll by accident, they strongly targeted and blamed her. Frightened, the girl hid at home, but every window of her house was surrounded by villagers staring at her expressionlessly. Under such pressure and blame, she became confused and collapsed. Finally, she chose to destroy her doll and crush the button that gave it a soul under the attacks of the villagers and the doll. Under the pressure, she was assimilated and became like the other villagers.



Conformity – Fear – Erasure

SHE SEWS JOY INTO HER DOLL — UNTIL THE VILLAGE SEWS FEAR INTO HER.



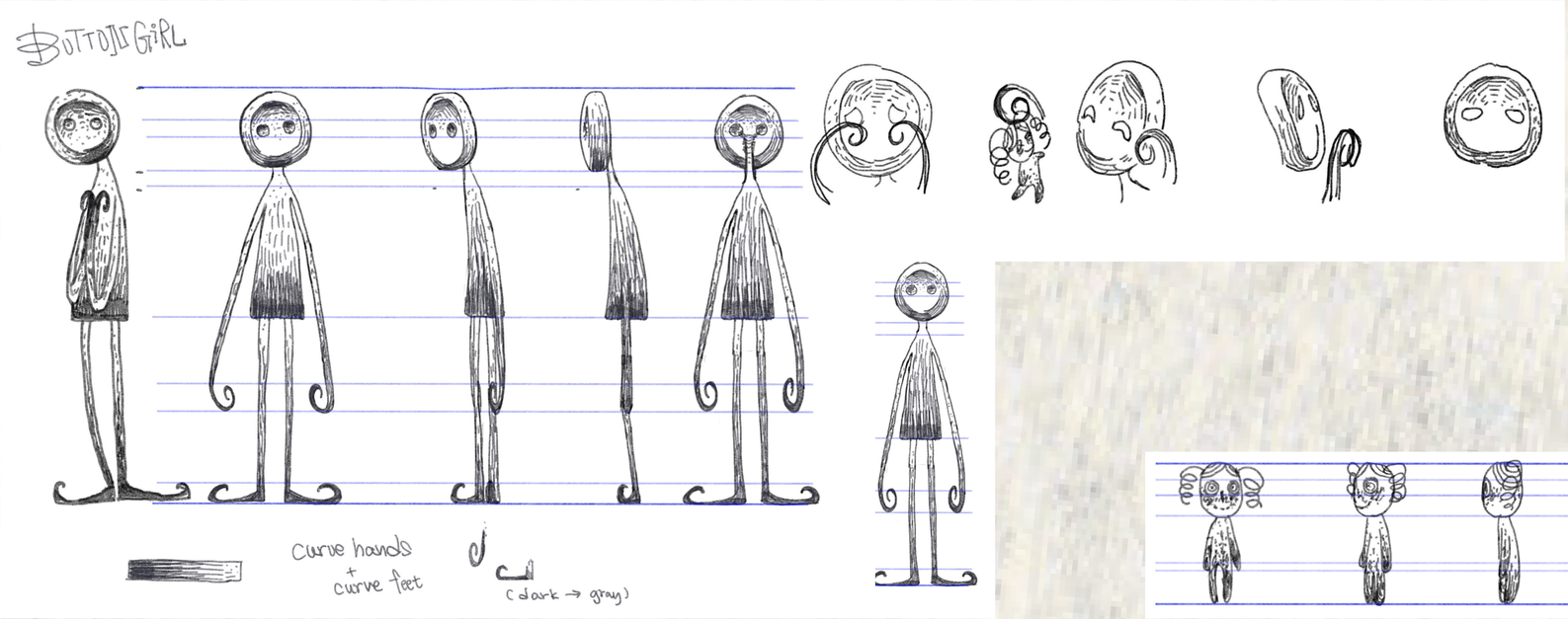


DEVELOP OF STORYBOARD

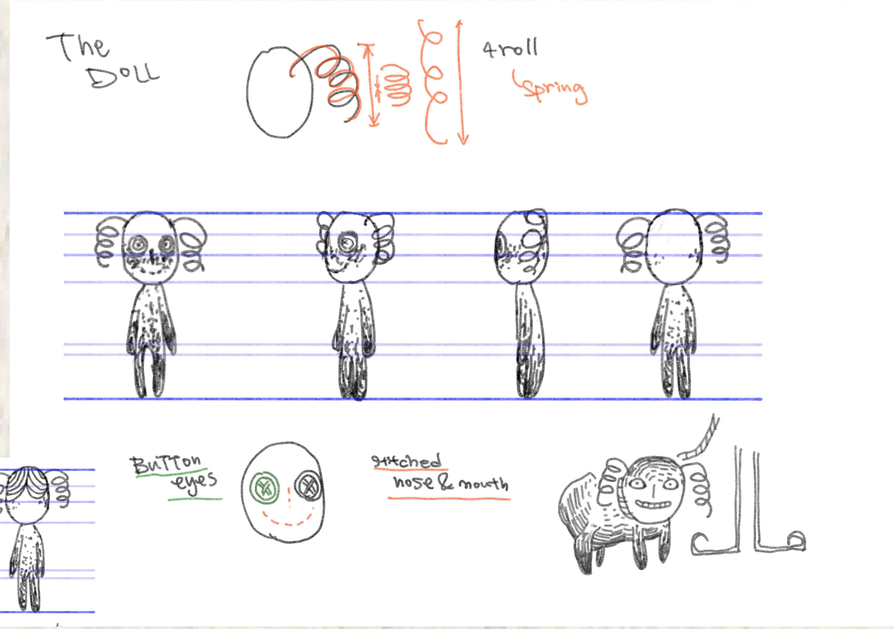
ANIMATIC

https://24021857.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2025/11/21/the-button-girl-animatic2-0/

ButtonGirl



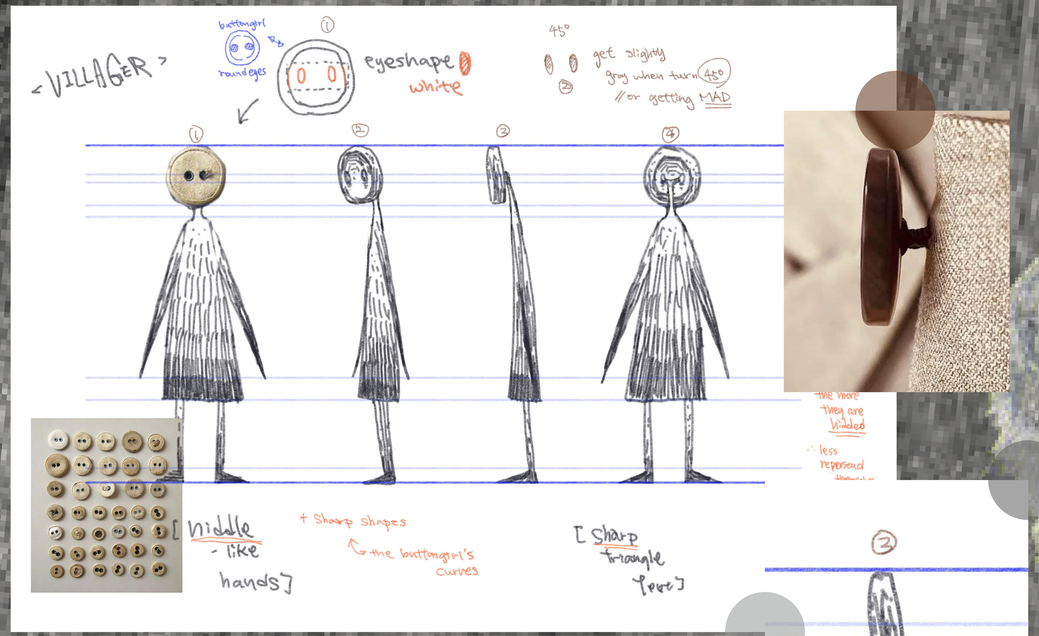
ButtonDoll

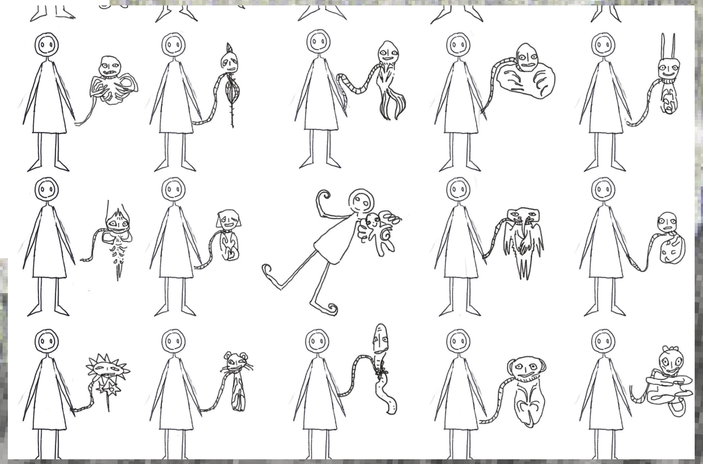


Buttongirl
is a **sixteen-year-old girl** who prefers fabric to people.
She lives in Button Village, a place that values sameness above all.
While everyone else makes identical "companion dolls," she creates her own— one with a face, a feeling, almost a heartbeat.
When the villagers discovered her dolls, they reacted with fear and anger.
She didn't fight back. She just kept sewing, **quietly believing that fabric and thread were safer than human hearts.**

Buttondoll
is Buttongirl's creation—and **her only friend**.
Made from scraps of fabric and thread, it somehow came to life.
It can smile, cry, and even feel pain.
Born from loneliness, it understands emotion better than most humans.
To Button Village, though, it's more than a doll—it's something that shouldn't exist.

Villagers of Button Village

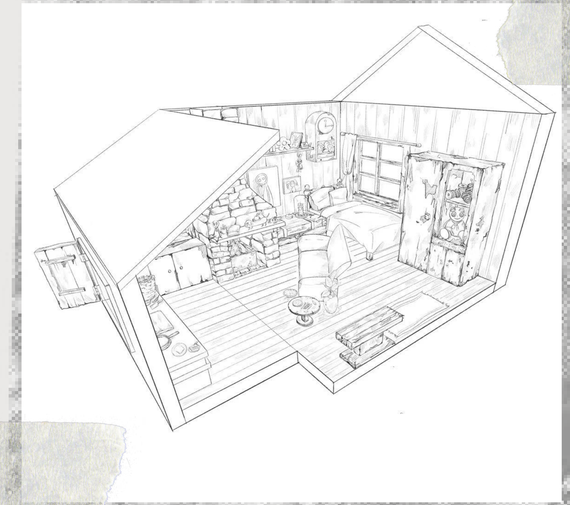


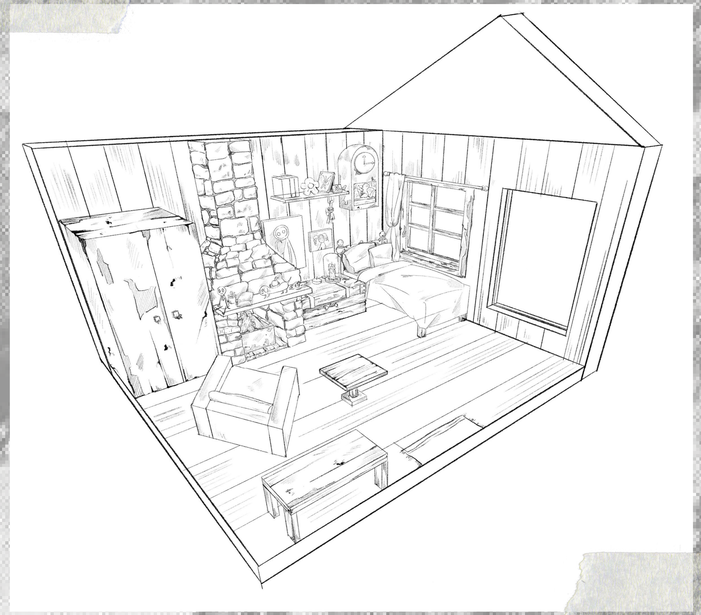


The villagers of Button Village
love order and fear difference.
They all wear nearly identical clothes, with the same identical button faces, and make identical dolls.
To them, **uniformity means safety; individuality means danger.**
When Buttongirl's creations appeared,
they felt offended because it reminded of the personalities they'd long forgotten.
So they forced buttongirl to **destroye** her dolls, hoping the silence that followed would make them feel **safe again**.

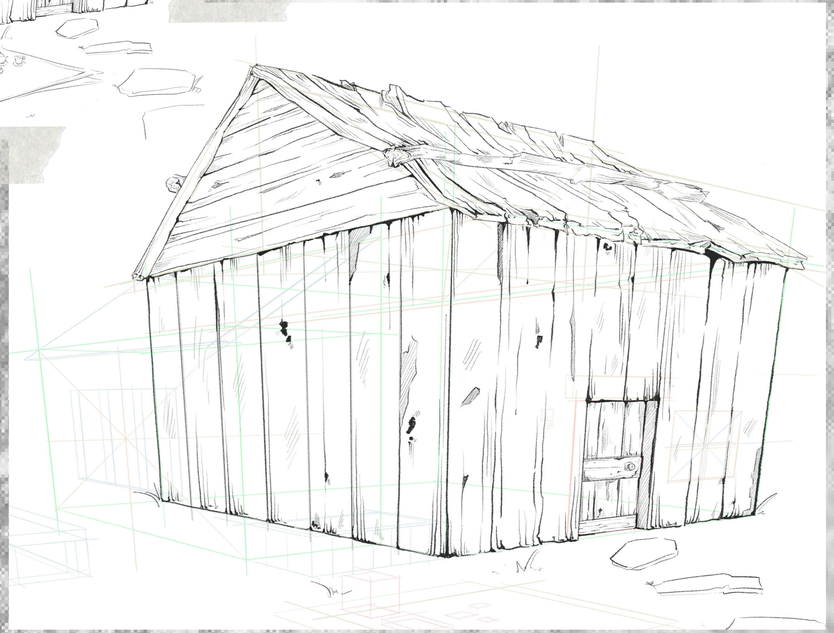
Environment & Background designs

In **Button Village**, everyone is sewn to the **perfect size.**





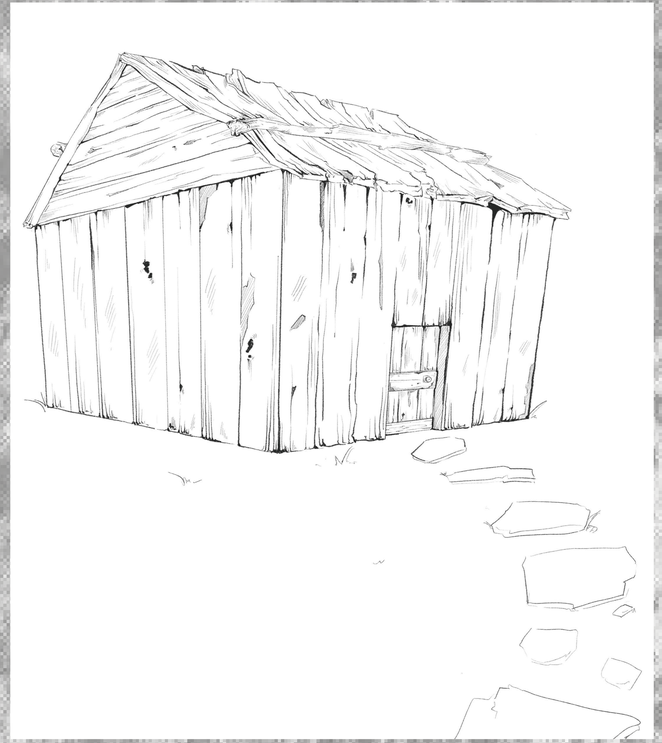
House of the ButtonGirl



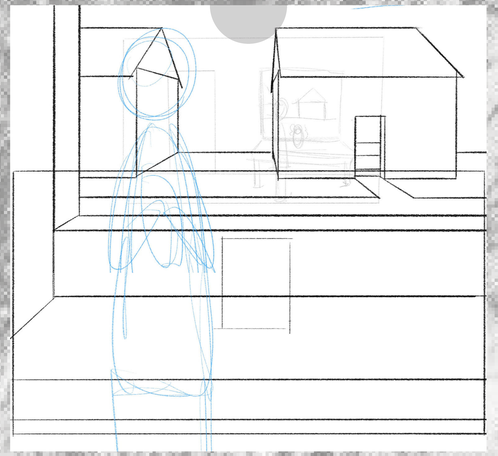
Outside of the House

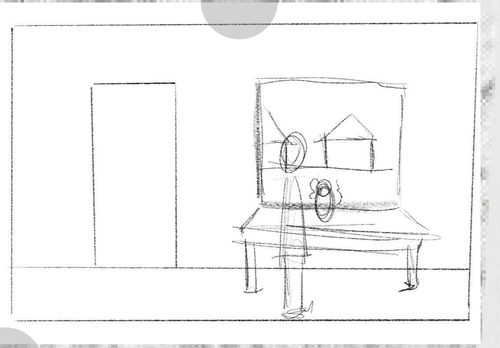
Environment & Background designs

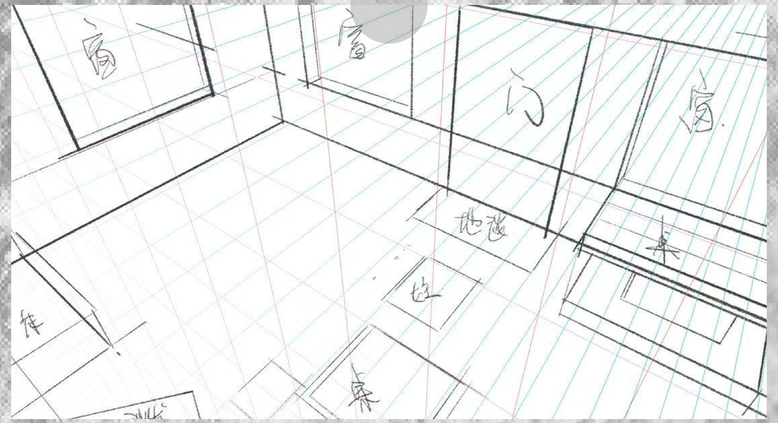
The Button Village

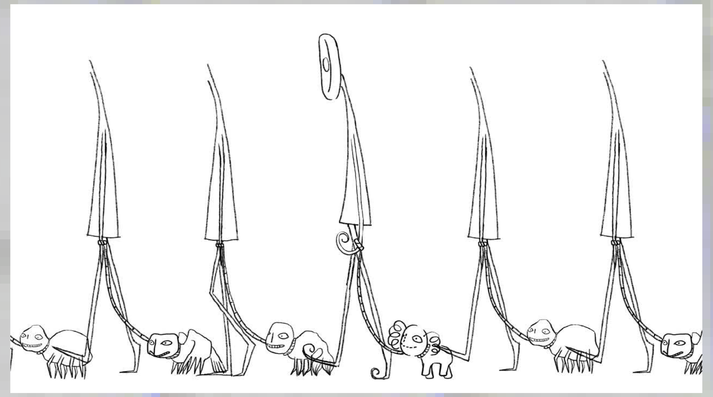
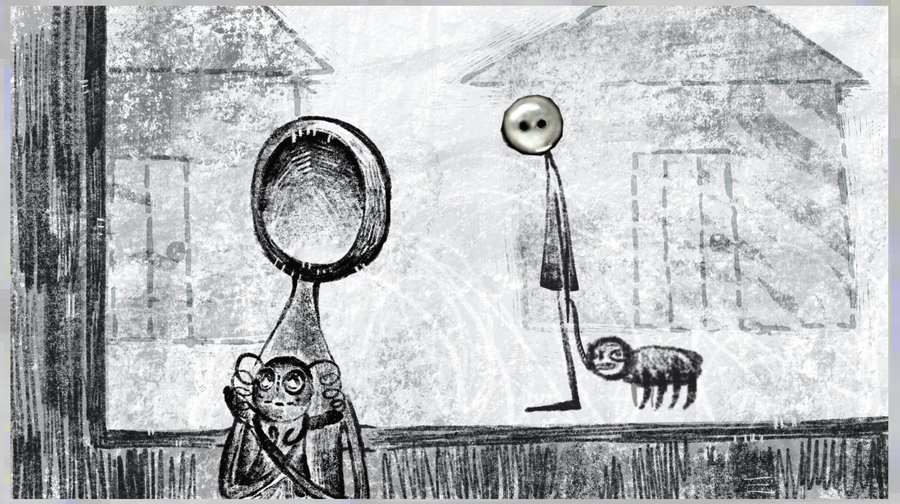
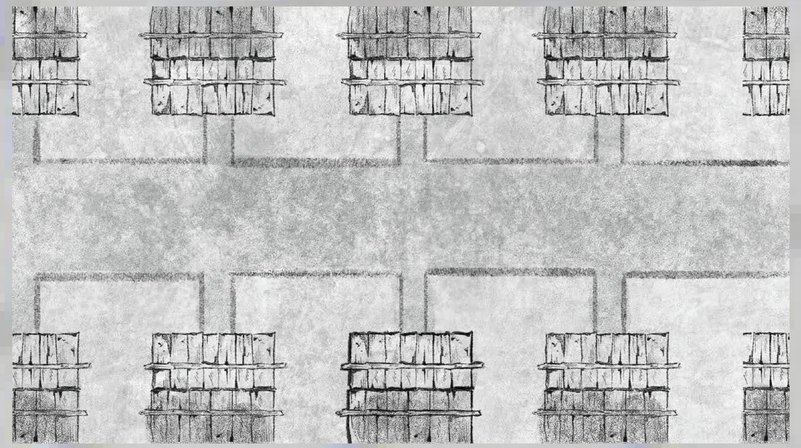


House of Other Villagers









MOVEMENT
&
TEXTURE
TEST